

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 /069 W

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R 041650Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9755

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CG, NI, AO, BE

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: VISIT OF MARC LEADER

SUMMARY: MARC LEADER KANYONGA SAYS THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF FAZ GENERAL BABIA CONTACTED HIM ABOUT POSSIBLE COUP TO TOPPLE MOBUTU. NIGERIAN EMISSARY APPROACHED MARC REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOZ. HE DESCRIBED MARC AS NOW LINING UP MODERATE EUROPEAN POLITICAL SUPPORT WITH A VIEW OT INITIATING SOON GENERAL UPRISING THROUGHOUT ZAIRE. END SUMMARY.

1. BRUSSELS-BASED ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION FIGURE KANYONGA MOBATELI, LEADER OF MARC, CAME IN TO EMBASSY MAY 4 AND TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN RECENTLY APPROACHED BY BELGIAN NATIONALS PURPORTING TO REPRESENT FAZ GENERAL BABIA WHO ASKED HIM IF MARC AND ITS ORGANIZATION IN ZAIRE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT GENERAL BABIA IF HE WERE TO INITIATE A COUP TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT MOBUTU. KANYONGA SAID HE WAS NONCOMMITAL IN HIS INITIAL RESPONSE TO THESE OVERTURES BECAUSE (A) HE DID NOT KNOW IF GENERAL BABIA AND HIS FOLLOWERS WERE CAPABLE OF PULLING OFF A SUCCESSFUL COUP, AND (B) HE FEARED THE APPROACH MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF "MANEUVER" BY MOBUTU.

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KANYONGA SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE SOON WHETHER "TO COORDINATE A COUP WITH THE GENERALS" OR TO TRIGGER MARC'S OWN UPRISING, USING MARC'S EXISTING ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT ZAIRE, INCLUDING YOUNGER OFFICERS IN FAZ. KANYONGA SAID ACTION OF ONE SORT OF ANOTHER WOULD COMMENCE SOON IF ONLY BECAUSE ZAIRIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS WERE BEGINNING TO ARREST MARC PEOPLE IN ZAIRE. HE SAID

THAT HE HAD BEGUN AN INTENSE SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH FRENCH AND BELGIAN NON-MARXIST POLITICAL FIGURES AND STEPPED UP HIS WORK WITH THE PRESS TO PREPARE POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO VIEW FORTHCOMING MARC OUTBREAK IN ZAIRE IN GENERALLY POSITIVE TERMS AND TO TAKE STEAM OUT OF EXPECTED MOBUTU EFFORT TO LABEL INDIGENOUS MARC UPRISING AS A "COMMUNIST INVASION".

2. KANYONGA TOLD US HE WAS CONTACTED THROUGH JEAN TSHOMBE APRIL 23 BY ALU OTUNLA (PHONETIC), A NIGERIAN DIPLOMAT AND FORMER CHARGE' IN BRUSSELS WHO WAS IN EUROPE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS. THE NIGERIAN OFFICIAL WANTED TO KNOW IF MARC WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN AT A TABLE AND NEGOTIATE DIFFERENCES WITH MOBUTU GOVERNMENT. KANYONGA SAID HIS REPLY WAS AN UNEQUIVOCABLE "NO".

3. KANYONGA SAID COORDINATION BETWEEN OPPOSITION GROUPS WAS JUST AS BAD AS EVER, WITH INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS PURSUING NARROW SELF-INTEREST RATHER THAN DROPPING DIFFERENCES FOR THE SAKE OF OVERTHROWING MOBUTU. HE SAID A GIZANGA- SPONSORED EUROPEAN COORDINATION MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS IN APRIL ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING, PARTIALLY BECAUSE MARC WAS NOT INVITED SINCE IT IS CONSIDERED PRO-WEST. HE SAID FLNC'S GENERAL MBUMBA HAD "FOULED-UP" THE SHABA INVASION BECAUSE HE HAD LIMITED SUCCESSIONIST GOALS RATHER THAN THE WIDER AIM OF OVERTHROWING MOBUTU. KANYONGA ASSERTED THAT ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO WAS DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED WITH TROUBLE SHABA INVASION WAS CAUSING HIM AND CUT OFF FLNC SUPPLIES ON THE EVE OF THE ATTACK ON KOWWEZI, ENDING FLNC ADVANCE AT THAT POINT. KANYONGA SAID GENERAL MBUMBA HAD NOW DISAPPEARED FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS AND HIS WHEREABOUTS WAS UNKNOWN. HE SAID FIGHTING IN SHABA WAS FAR FROM OVER WITH "TWO COLUMNS" OF EX-GENDARMES STILL AVAILABLE TO BE COMMITTED TO THE BATTLE. BESIDES HIS USUAL CHARACTERIZATIONS OF OTHER OPPOSITION FIGURES AND ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., LEFTIST, OPPORTUNIST, SELF-SERVING), KANYONGA MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

-- PRP LEADER LAURENT KABILA HAD PUBLICLY BROKEN WITH GIZENGA:

-- PARIS BASED FSA LEADER CLEOPHAS KAMITATU IS ON THE MOBUTU PAYROLL CHARGED WITH SOWING CONFUSION IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES.  
RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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